

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2006, no claims have been canceled, amended or added. Claims 1-30 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application is requested.

II. NON-ART REJECTIONS

In paragraph (2) of the Office Action, claims 1, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants' attorney respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action errs when it asserts that the disclosure of the application does not show support for the negative limitation "not a modification of the rate at which recorded events in the clip unfold."

This limitation can be found in the specification at paragraph [0032], which is set forth below:

[0032] When the user previews clips on the player, frames are always displayed at their correct time, and this is achieved by skipping some frames when this becomes necessary. Regardless of the data capacity of the network, a clip having a duration of one minute will always complete playback in one minute. The user will therefore see all actions portrayed in the clip take place with their timing preserved. **A loss of network bandwidth availability will only result in a degradation in smoothness of action, not a modification of the rate at which the recorded events unfold.**

Consequently, Applicants' attorney requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In paragraph (3) of the Office Action, claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,600,73 (Chui).

Applicants' attorney respectfully traverses the rejections. The Applicants' invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21 and 28, is patentable over the reference because the claims recite limitations not shown by the reference.

Nonetheless, according to the Office Action, Chui teaches all the elements of the independent claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21 and 28 at col. 29, lines 40-55, which are set forth below:

Chui: Col. 29, lines 40-55

This arrangement of frame 70 is particularly useful in the interactive decompression and display of a sequence of video frames. Specifically, fields 74, 75 and 76 enable decompressor 20 to flexibly display the frames in the sequence, especially in the case where the sequence of frames 70 are sequential frames in a motion picture. For example, decompressor 20 can interrogate field 76 to determine if the processing capacity of decompressor 20 and its display system 26 is such that every frame in the sequence cannot be decompressed and displayed in real time; if so, decompressor 20 can skip to the next frame 70 in the sequence indicated by the contents of field 75 in frame 70. While the quality of the displayed motion picture will be reduced from the best possible images when frames are skipped, those frames that are not skipped are displayed in real-time, so that the time-dependence of the motion in the motion picture is accurately conveyed.

Moreover, the definitions of fields 74, 75 and 76 can be found in Chui at col. 28, lines 22-43, which are set forth below:

Chui: Col. 28, lines 22-43

Fields 74 and 75 then follow in frame 70 according to this example, to facilitate control of the display of the video sequence containing frame 70. Field 74 is a four-byte field of long integer type which contains the address at which the previous frame in the sequence begins, enabling rapid jumping back to the previous frame as desired. As will be described hereinbelow, a user control interface may be provided with decompressor system 20 to allow interactive control of the display of the video sequence, in which case field 74 will facilitate the skipping and selection of individual frames in reverse order. Similarly, field 75 is a four-byte field of long integer type which contains the address of the next frame in the sequence, allowing rapid skipping of frames 70 in the forward direction during decompression and display.

Field 76 is a two-byte field of integer type that indicates the complexity of the image contained within frame 70, by specification of compression ratio, quality index, or a user-defined specification of the image, such values useful in measuring and controlling the performance of the decompression and display.

The above portions of Chui merely describe a decompressor interrogating a field in a frame that indicates the complexity of the image contained within the frame to determine if the processing capacity of decompressor and its display system is such that every frame in the sequence cannot be decompressed and displayed in real time, and then skipping to a next frame in the sequence.

However, nothing in the above portions of Chui teach or suggest skipping frames on the basis of network bandwidth availability.

Specifically, Chui does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1, 11 and 21 directed to displaying selected frames from said frame source, on said display means, at their correct time based

on the frame rate in order to maintain timing integrity of the clip by skipping frames in said frame sequence in response to an indication of the data transfer rate of said network, so that a loss of network bandwidth availability results in a degradation in smoothness of the clip, not a modification of the rate at which recorded events in the clip unfold.

In addition, Chui does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 8, 18 and 28 directed to (a) selecting a next frame for preloading by skipping at least one frame in the clip's frame sequence in response to an indication of the data transfer rate of said network, preloading a frame from said frame source into a frame queue in said memory means, displaying a preloaded frame at its correct time based on the frame rate in order to maintain timing integrity of the clip, processing elapsed real time since the clip started playing with a frame timing parameter, and updating the number of frames to skip in response to said processing of elapsed real time.

Indeed, nothing in Chui relates to skipping frames on the basis of network bandwidth availability. As a result, Chui does not teach or suggest all the elements of Applicants' claimed invention. Moreover, the various elements of Applicants' claimed invention together provide operational advantages over Chui. In addition, Applicants' invention solves problems not recognized by Chui.

Thus, Applicants' attorney submit that independent claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21 and 28 are allowable over Chui. Further, dependent claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-17, 19-20, 22-27, 29 and 30 are submitted to be allowable over Chui in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21 and 28, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-17, 19-20, 22-27, 29 and 30 recite additional novel elements not shown by Chui.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.


Respectfully submitted,

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